Chapter. 96

Lunch Break

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

Congrat-ulations!!

If you alone throw away your life,

then all of the other people in this world shall be saved.

.....

HUH?

Rejoice, chosen one!

HUH?

Come tomorrow you shall be a hero for all time.

HUUUH?

SFX: ZUN... ZUZUN...

Is that black-hole-like giant slug thing coming this way?!

What... is that?

—I see... So if I'm sacrificed, then it'll disappear?

SFX: HYOOOOOO...

Put your affairs in order by then.

The ceremony will take place in tomorrow morning.

— And if I don't jump in there, they'll just force me to, won't they?

— Okay, well I'm not sure I get it but I'm supposed to jump in there, right?

What should I do?

That's all the time I have?

By tomorrow— morning?

Put my affairs in order...?

It'll just be confiscated if I die anyhow, right?

— Then why not...

It's really not that much, but this is the money I've worked hard to earn since I was a kid.

He-yup

SFX: BYOOOOOO

SFX: BAHHH

Ah...

ビョオオオオオ

Dammit, the wind...

ばっっっ

No! Not that way!

— Don't go over there,

I wanted that money to go for to troubled elders and kids

and people that are taking care of people weaker than themselves

and most of all to the people that are important to me!

Goddammit, what am I doing?!

—I START THINKING THAT INTENSELY.

ALSO I HAVE THAT DREAM A LOT...

Uhhh.

I WISH I HADN'T ASKED.

—THAT'S HONESTLY MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHTS ON THAT.

ALL I WAS ASKING YOU WAS 'DO PEOPLE WITH GOOD MEMORIES REMEMBER THEIR DREAMS AND THAT SORT OF THING?'

THAT'S ALL.

Cooool story bro.

ズルズル…

SFX: ZURU ZURU...

WHY AM I ALWAYS HAVING DREAMS LIKE THIS...?

THEY SAY THAT DREAMS ARE THE MANIFESTATION OF THE UNCONSCIOUS, RIGHT?

I WONDER IF I CAN FIGURE ANYTHING OUT IF I DO SOME RESEARCH.

I was thinking about reading some books on it.

...I don't have a great understanding of the subject, but I think the guy's name was Freud?

Yeah. I don't understand Freud all that much ...

OR, WELL...

WHEN IT COMES TO DR. FREUD, I'M ALWAYS AFRAID THAT EVERYTHING'S A 'SEXUAL METAPHOR'.

—NO, PLEASE, DON'T RESEARCH IT, PLEASE!!

LIKE 'SACRIFICE' AND 'THROWING MONEY AROUND'.

BUT I MEAN, MY DREAM HAD ALL THAT STUFF IN IT...

. . . .

You'll only fall into the central dogma of youth!!

Seriously!! Don't!!

You've got rank-deciding matches starting!

There are some things it's better not to probe into. That's what me, your sensei, thinks.

—ANYHOW,

YOU'RE STILL ALONE, AREN'T YOU?

EVEN AFTER 3 YEARS.

HA. HA. HA.

HEY, QUIT LAUGHING.

DON'T COUNT YOUR SENSEI IN THAT.

WHAT? NO, I'M NOT ALONE...

I'VE GOT YOU HERE, DON'T I, SENSEI?

THE FRIENDS YOU'D FINALLY MADE GRADUATED.

I'M GLAD WE AT LEAST GOT SOME NEW MEMBERS FOR THE SHOGI CLUB THOUGH.

TALK

UMM...

THERE'S SOME SORTING OUT ABOUT THAT I'D LIKE TO DO...

That okay?

HOLD ON A SEC.

UH...

Shogi Club. Day of the Spring Try-Outs.

SFX: SU.....

WELL, WELL, THAT SOUNDS RELIABLE.

HO HOH.

HA HA HA

Then

If you want, I can teach you. I'll join with you.

Huh...?

But, Wh...

Ah!

Er, no, um, I'm still a beginner.

So... I wasn't sure.

Kawamoto-san, are you joining the club, too?

Do you play shogi?

Same class

Hasn't learned yet

Is she in 1st year?

Ah... Hey, that girl's kinda cute...

What a cute girl.....

Came to ask a question

SFX: DONN

IS YOUR FAULT, RIGHT?

I'D SAY IT'S PREEEETTY DARN HARD TO DENY THAT THE FACT THAT WE'VE GOT NO NEW MEMBERS

BEFORE THAT, IF YOU WANT TO PLAY, HOW ABOUT I DO A QUICK CHECK OF YOUR SKILL LEVEL?

AH... BUT

— THEN HOW 'BOUT A GAME ?!!

I think the bar might be a bit too high for me

Hey, Kawamoto-san, want to join the hand-made club?

Kiriyama..... How could you be so petty.....?

HATE

LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO ON HIS FUNDAMENTALS.

TOO BAD !!

Okay!! Neext!!

Mmhm

I'm gonna train and try again!!

Shit...

SFX: YORO YORO... (WOBBLING) FURA FURA... (SHAKY)

—BUT YOU HAVE A POINT.

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE EATING ALONE, SAME AS USUAL.....

YOU DON'T SEEM UNCOMFORTABLE THE WAY YOU USUALLY DO.

AT THE VERY LEAST

YOU'RE NOT READING MAGAZINES ABOUT CHANGING JOBS ANYMORE, IT LOOKS LIKE.

MHM...

You were crying back then, weren't you...?

You definitely look like you were holding back tears.

Please stop.

And... could you forget that?

WELL... I BET IT FEELS GOOD.

AND THIS IS A GOOD VIEW, HUH?

HM?

hush

ISN'T THAT HINA-CHAN?

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT

THEY'VE BEEN EATING THERE A LOT LATELY

—HEY, KARIYAMA, UH,

DO YOU EAT LUNCH HERE EVERY DAY LOOKING AT HINA-CHAN?

ALONE? WITHOUT EVER TALKING TO HER?

ISN'T THAT A LITTLE WEIRD?

SFX: BISHIIH

CAN'T YOU JUST CALL OUT TO HER AND EAT TOGETHER?!

Huh? No, I don't need to do that.

It'd be weird for me to be mixing with 1st year girls.

Weren't you ever taught not to point at people with your chopsticks?!

IT'S FINE, YOU LOOK WEIRD ENOUGH ALREADY!!

Don't worry about it!!

I AM WORRIED ABOUT IT! THE BIGGEST THING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THERE IS THE AGES!!

MAN... YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO GRADUATE FROM BEING THE SOLITARY GOURMET!!

I DON'T MIND, I ACTUALLY THINK IT'S COOL!!

Gorou-san is cool as hell!

T/N: SOLITARY GOURMET IS A REFERENCE TO THE ONGOING MANGA "KODOKU NO GOURMET" STARRING A CHARACTER NAMED GOROU INOGASHIRA

-I KIND FEEL... LIKE IT'S ENOUGH.

MY STOMACH'S FULL.

WHEN I TOLD AKARI-SAN ABOUT HOW HINA-CHAN IS DOING

.....

JUST GETTING TO SEE THAT IS.

HINA-CHAN IS LAUGHING AND EATING LUNCH WITH HER FRIEND AT SCHOOL.

AND SAID HOW HAPPY IT MADE HER

SHE CRIED

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT IT

JUST GETTING TO SEE HER SMILE IS...

I'M HAPPY, TOO.

KIRIYAMA .....

IF YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN THAT POSITION NOW AND SOMEBODY ELSE NABS HER, IT'S STATISTICALLY IT'S THE-END FOR YOU! ☆

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT? IT'S LIKE YOU'RE HER GUARDIAN OR SOMETHING

IS THAT REALLY ENOUGH?! I'M WORRIED, I REALLY AM.

——AAAH, BUT, BUT, BUUUUT... KIRIYAMA!!

Aaaa

I know that it feels like you're close from that guardian position, but you're actually really far away..... —I'm tellin' ya...

MMM

I SEE

I GET IT, KIRIYAMA ...

HAWAAAH

OOOOOE-

HM?

YOU'VE GOT A CRUSH ON HINA-CHAN, DON'T YOU?!

ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, KIRIYAMA?! WITH JUST THAT?!!

もだもだ

SFX MODA MODA MODA

KIRIYAMA?

DO DO DO

IS THE ONE THAT CAME TO THE TRYOUT DAY FOR THE CLUB THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?

OH, THAT GUY

HM?

WHAT IS IT, KIRI-YAMA?

SFX BAHH

SFX: DASHHH DADADAAH

THAT'S REAAAALLY NOT MATURE, KIRIYAMAHHH!

HOW CAN YOU BE THAT PETTY ?!!

AAAH! HE'S ALL THE WAY OVER THERE ALREADY ?!

Is he the fastest kid in the world or something ?!

HEYYYY!! THAT'S THE WORST EXCUSE I'VE EVER HEARD!

And there it is!

PARDON ME I'VE GOTTA BE GOING!!

Um, uh-oh, I forgot I have something I really need to talk to Hina-chan about!!

DIGGG

DASHHH

Compared to seeing him helpless like he's about to fall to pieces...

—seeing him baring his teeth like and running like that is...

AH, WELL,

HE'S BETTER OFF THAT WAY ANYHOW.

I GUESS IT'S OKAY!!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, KIRIYAMA ...?

OH, THE 1ST YEAR ISN'T BACKING OFF?

WHAT ABOUT KIRIYAMA ...?

OOH! He sat down, too!

AH! THE FIRST YEAR SAT DOWN!

ガッ

ドス

SFX: DOSSU ZAHH

HAHAH!

AND NOW THEY'RE EATING!! THEY'RE ALL EATING LUNCH TOGETHER!!

YOU REALLY DID IT, KIRIYAMA!

YOUR DREAM CAME TRUE! ☆

Pff...

A na na na!

Chapter 96 END

Senzaki Manabu's Lion Shogi Column
AN ARTICLE BY SENZAKI MANABU 2

REGARDING SCHOOL SHOGI

When you think of students, you think of campus life, the era of praising youth. Going to the beach, to the mountains, mixers, and flirting..... I guess I'm a bit old fashioned. But I think it's a time where you're actively fulfilling schoolwork and enjoying yourself.

Of course, there are lots of college students who love shogi and to them, playing shogi equals enjoying themselves. Most colleges have a shogi club and they have tournaments where the club members can come to to play one another. In my student days, I played shogi all the time and now I kind of regret it and wish I had spent more of my youth out enjoying myself. And something that's surprising to me is that for a lot of them (expectedly, mostly boys) shogi is their youth.

College tournaments are frequent. As I touched on in an earlier column, these are divided largely into individual games and crew games. And those fighting for supremacy in the individual games could be called the top of the amateur level already.

There are also national level crew battle tournaments, but there are also many regions as well. There are some places where those are popular and some where they aren't. But the place it's most popular is without a doubt the urban areas. There are lots of tournaments in Tokyo and Osaka.

In the Kansai region, there are strong schools like Tokyo University and Waseda University. And in Osaka the strongest school is unquestionably Ritsumeikan University which is way ahead of the pack constantly ranked 2nd or above.

By the way, there are lots of active pro players, male and female, as well as members of the Shoureikai that are also active college students, but they cannot appear in their college's major tournaments. However, they are allowed to participate in everyday practice matches. And depending on the person, they mingle a lot.

I wrote before that there are a lot of men, but recently the number of women has increased. And when more women are there, more men are there. It's a mathematical law. Apparently more women are playing the game as a result of this manga as well. There are surprisingly a lot of women that play shogi intensely in high school that quit when they get to college. And the for that reason is...

Kiriyama, no!

On the Spring tryout day when girls came out, they get berated with harsh language. You really shouldn't do this. And on top of that, he ended up with zero new club members..... Girls... No, beginners need to be treated with kindness. That's the duty of the strong players. If I were Kiriyama's senpai, I'd be giving him a stern lecture.

To all the men out there! When women are just starting out, let's lose to them!

10 or 20 times. Your opponent will know you're going easy on them and learn that the better you are, the kinder you can be to weaker players.

In any case, there is a unique energy, a unique heat in college shogi clubs. For most of them, once they become working adults they get chased away by work and tend to not be able to play shogi much anymore. So I think their feeling is they want to get as much of it in while they can. Shogi is youth! From the perspective of a pro shogi player, I really am jealous.

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 10

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